

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 499

Introduced by Assembly Member Aroner

February 18, 1999

An act to add Section 14132.26 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 499, as introduced, Aroner. Medi-Cal: assisted living demonstration project.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Services, under which qualified low-income persons are provided with health care services.

This bill would require the department to develop a demonstration project to test the efficacy of providing an assisted living benefit to low-income beneficiaries under the Medi-Cal program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to
2 develop options that allow elderly and disabled
3 individuals maximum choice in determining their living
4 arrangements, including the choice to remain in the least
5 restrictive and most homelike environment as they age or
6 grow frail.

1 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature to ensure
2 that elderly and disabled individuals have access to
3 appropriate health care and personal assistance,
4 regardless of their income level, health status, or choice
5 of housing arrangement.

6 SEC. 2. Section 14132.26 is added to the Welfare and
7 Institutions Code, to read:

8 14132.26. (a) The department shall develop a
9 demonstration project to test the efficacy of providing an
10 assisted living benefit to low-income beneficiaries under
11 the Medi-Cal program. The department shall submit any
12 necessary waiver applications or modifications to the
13 medicaid state plan to the Health Care Financing
14 Administration to implement the demonstration project,
15 and shall implement the project only to the extent federal
16 financial participation is available.

17 (b) The department shall develop the demonstration
18 project in conjunction with consumers, consumer
19 advocates, housing and service providers, and experts in
20 the fields of gerontology, geriatric health, nursing
21 services, and independent living.

22 (c) The assisted living benefit shall be designed to
23 provide eligible individuals with a range of services that
24 enable them to remain in the least restrictive and most
25 homelike environment while receiving the medical and
26 personal care necessary to protect their health and
27 well-being.

28 (d) (1) Eligible individuals shall be those who are
29 determined by the department to be eligible for, or at risk
30 of, placement in a nursing facility. Eligibility shall be
31 based on an assessment of an individual's ability to
32 perform functional and instrumental activities of daily
33 living, as well as the individual's medical diagnosis and
34 prognosis.

35 (2) An eligible individual shall participate in the
36 demonstration project only if he or she is fully informed
37 of the project and the nature of the benefit and indicates
38 in writing his or her choice to participate.

1 (e) The demonstration project shall test the
2 effectiveness of providing a Medi-Cal assisted living
3 benefit through two service delivery approaches.

4 (1) An assisted living benefit shall be provided to
5 residents of licensed residential care facilities. Under this
6 model the facility operator shall be responsible for the
7 provision of services allowed under the benefit, either
8 directly or through contracts with other provider
9 agencies.

10 (2) An assisted living benefit shall be provided to
11 residents in a range of unlicensed and unregulated
12 settings including individual homes, apartments, and
13 publicly funded senior and disabled housing projects.
14 Under this model an independent agency, pursuant to a
15 contract with the department, shall be responsible for the
16 provision of services to eligible individuals in a
17 geographic area specified by the department.

18 (f) The effectiveness of the demonstration project
19 shall be evaluated by the department. The evaluation
20 shall include, but not be limited to, participant
21 satisfaction and cost-effectiveness.

22 (g) The number of individuals, facilities, and agencies
23 participating in the demonstration project shall be
24 limited in accordance with any requirements of the
25 Health Care Financing Administration.

